

State of Utah Department of Commerce

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NEWS RELEASE

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Criminal Charges Filed Against Promoter Raising Money for Rodizio's Restaurant Investor loaned \$300,000 to failing business ...

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Melvin C. Wilson, Davis County Attorney, and the Utah Division of Securities today announced that criminal charges were filed against Oscar W. Mink of Lake Arrowhead, California. The three counts allege securities fraud, the sale of unregistered securities, and sales of securities by an unlicensed agent. Securities fraud is a second-degree felony; the other two counts are third-degree felonies.

The criminal charges relate to two investments totaling \$300,000 that Mink solicited from an investor in Bountiful in early 2002. The investor was told that her money would be used for expansion of the Rodizio restaurant, opening two additional locations. She was told that her money was not at risk because major credit card companies were participating in a program to provide repayment of the money she loaned to the company. In addition, she was told her investment would be secured by assets of the restaurant.

In reality, the restaurant was in financial difficulty and declared bankruptcy in December 2002. Mink had taken no steps to list the investor as having a security interest in the restaurant assets.

Important information was withheld from the investor. She was not told that Mink and related companies he controlled would take a 23% commission out of the money she invested. Mink did not disclose that he had unpaid judgments and tax liens against him totaling \$114,068 and had been suspended from acting as a certified financial planner.

Criminal charges were filed in 2004 against two partners of Mink. Those cases have now been resolved. The two partners have repaid approximately \$60,000 of the amount lost. The investor also has received some money from the bankruptcy of Rodizio.